

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-32 are pending in this application.

Objections to the Specification:

Sections 1-2 of the Office Action objected to the language and format of the abstract. Attached hereto is a new abstract which is limited to a single paragraph and does not exceed 150 words in length. Applicant therefore requests that the objections to the abstract be withdrawn.

Section 3 of the Office Action objected to the spelling of the words “organisation”, “normalised”, “visualisation”, and “analysed”. The spellings of these words have been changed to their respective U.S. versions.

Sections 4-6 of the Office Action objected to the drawings. Amendments to the drawings have been made to overcome these objections. For example, textual labels have been provided in the figures and elements 156 and 158 have been relabeled as 156a-156c and 158a-158c, respectively. The drawings also show all of the claimed features. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims:

Claims 3-5 and 7 were objected to because of various informalities. These informalities have been overcome. For example, the spelling of the word “normalised” in

claims 3-5 have been changed to the U.S. version of this word. Applicant requests that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 16 no longer requires the limitation “the step of pre-formatting the data files.” Claim 16 is clear and supported by the specification. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-13, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hemmje et al (hereinafter “Hemmje”). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Hemmje. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Applicant submits that Hemmje fails to disclose or even suggest each element of the claimed invention. For example, Applicant submits that Hemmje fails to disclose or even suggest the following limitation of claim 1 and its dependents:

“effecting movement of at least one element from an initial position on the display towards one or more of the sort statement sites, the speed and direction of movement of respective elements being determined in accordance with the

relevance parameter for their associated data files in respect of each statement so that differences in the data files cause the elements to move relative to one another, thereby to provide a visual indication of the data files being sorted on the display.”

Similarly, Applicant submits that Hemmje fails to disclose or even suggest “a visual signal processor for representing the data files as elements on the display means and for simulating movement, including speed and direction of the movement, or at least one element from an initial position on the display means towards one or more sort statements...” as required by independent claim 17 and its dependents. The present invention thus displays to the user a moving image, including the speed and direction of movement. This feature is supported by, for example, page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 11 of the original specification.

In contrast, Hemmje merely discloses the end results of sorted data. While the speed and direction of movement of an element displayed can be witnessed and interpreted by the user in the present invention, this is not possible in the system disclosed by Hemmje.

Dependent claim 6 requires the elements moving in steps and that a movement vector is determined for each step. Hemmje fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. While Hemmje merely discloses a final position of a document, Hemmje fails to disclose moving elements in steps and recalculating the movement vector for each step.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 be withdrawn.

WINTER et al.
Application No. 09/869,150
February 6, 2004

New Claims:

New claims 18-32 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New claims 18-19 depend from independent claim 1 and new claims 20-32 depend from independent claim 17. Applicant thus submits that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

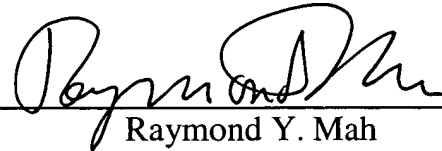
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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Fig 1

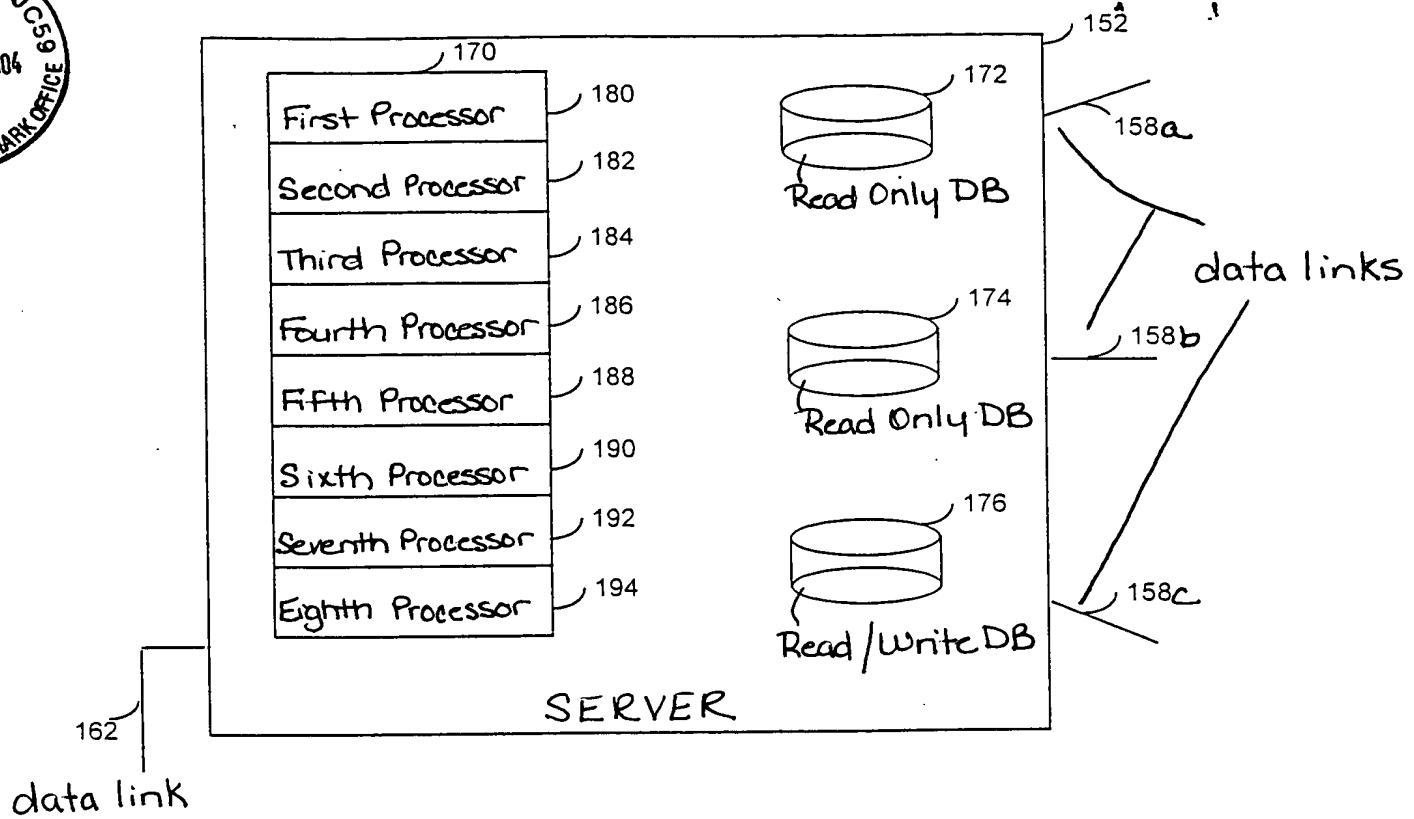
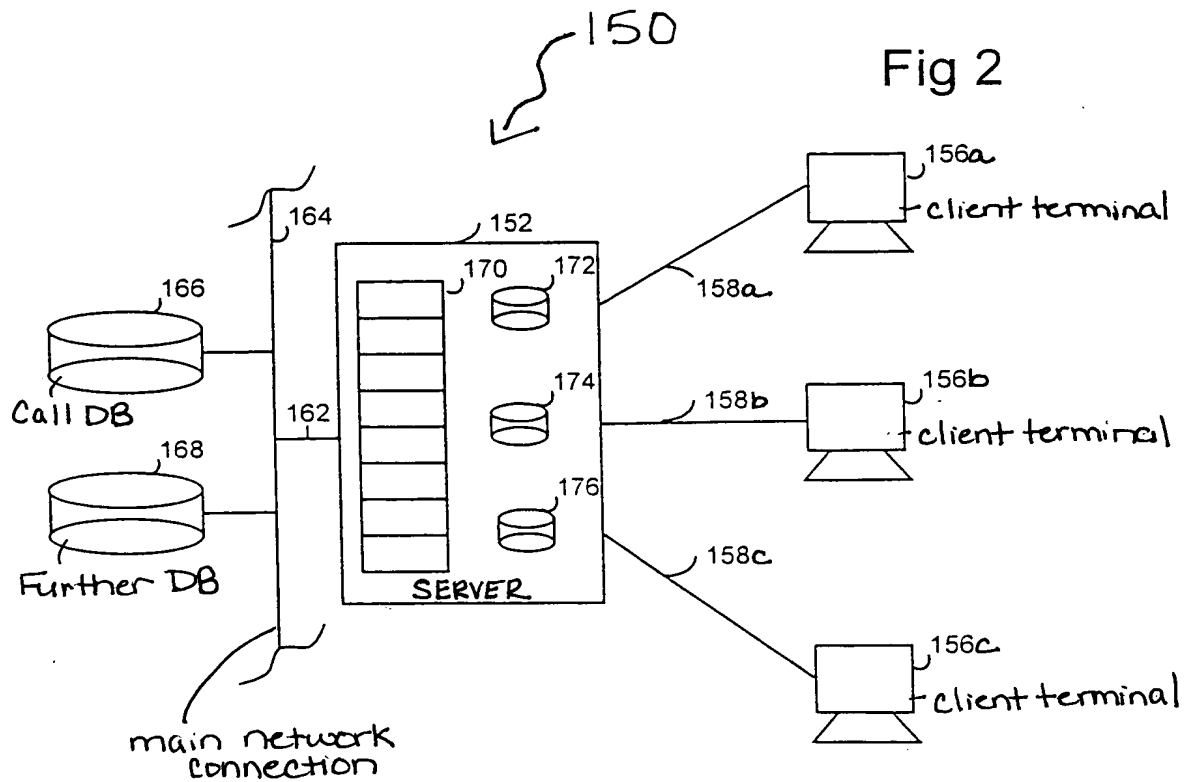


Fig 2





2/4

Fig 3

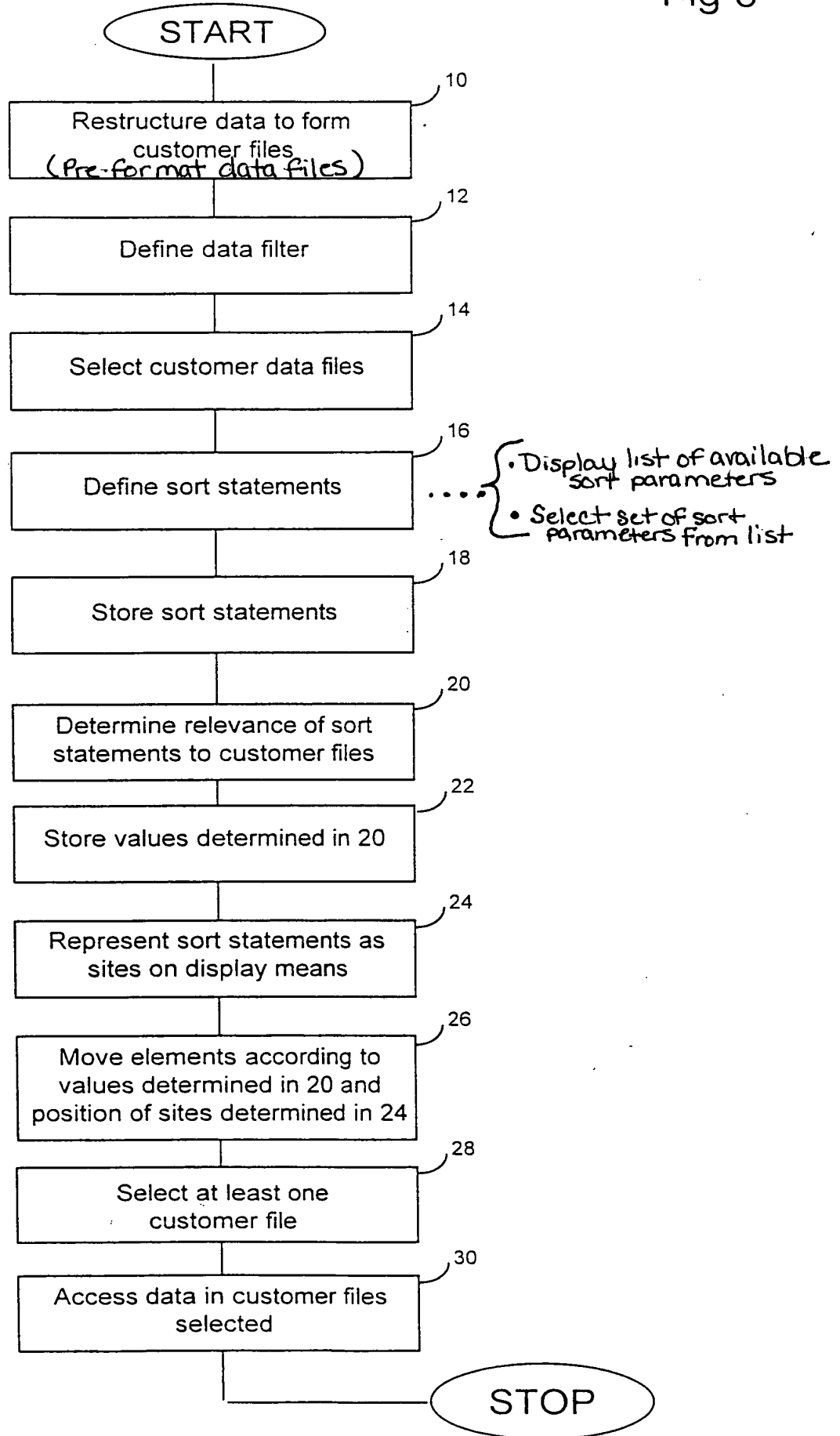




Fig 4

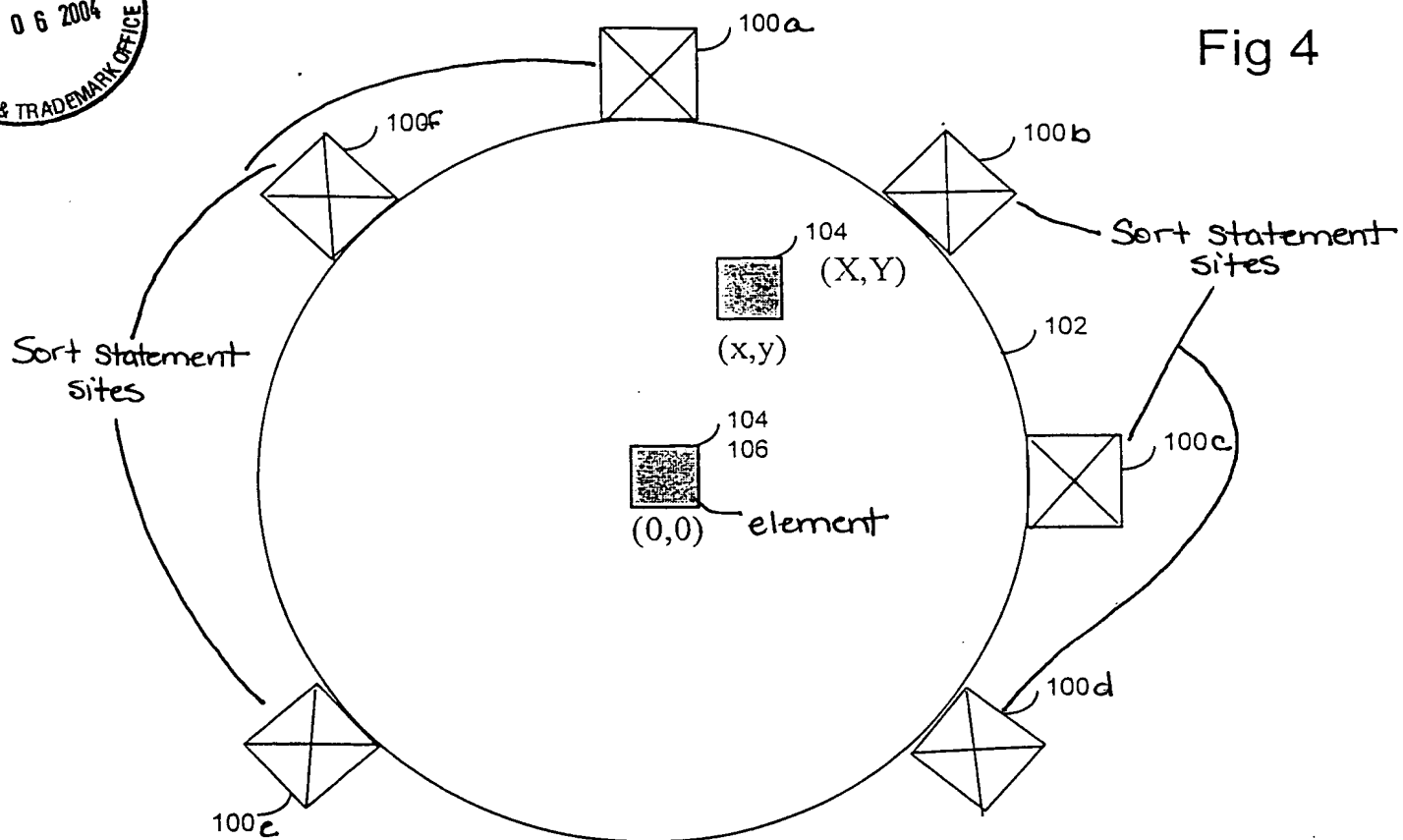


Fig 5

